



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : B05B 5/08, A61K 9/28, A61J 3/00, B05D 1/06 A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/35516

(43) International Publication Date: 14 November 1996 (14.11.96)

International Application Number: PCT/GB96/01102

(74) Agent: MARLOW, Nicholas, Simon; Reddie & Grose, 16 Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8PL (GB).

(22) International Filing Date: 8 May 1996 (08.05.96)

(30) Priority Data:
9509347.2 9 May 1995 (09.05.95) GB
9520302.2 5 October 1995 (05.10.95) GB

(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except GB US): BERWIND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES, INC. [US/US]; Moyer Boulevard, West Point, Pennsylvania, PA 19486 (US).

(71) Applicant (for GB only): BPSI HOLDINGS, INC. [US/US]; Suite 1300, 1105 North Market Street, P.O. Box 8985, Wilmington, DE 19899-8985 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

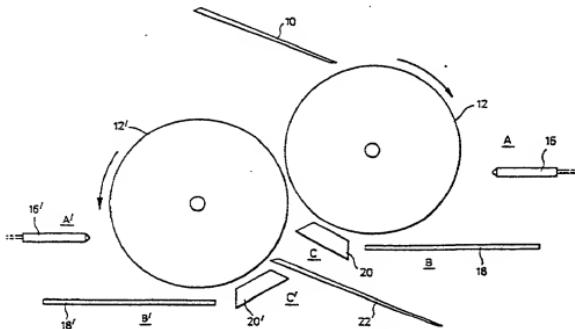
(73) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): HOGAN, John, E. [GB/GB]; The Lodge, Upper St. Anne's Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8SY (GB); STANFORTH, John, Nicholas [GB/GB]; High Trees, 170 Bloomfield Road, Bath BA2 2AT (GB); REEVES, Linda [GB/GB]; 6 Magdalen Road, Bath BA2 4QA (GB); PAGE, Trevor [GB/GB]; Bellepais, Lime Walk, Southampton, Hampshire SO4 5AR (GB).

Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: ELECTROSTATIC COATING



(57) Abstract

The invention provides apparatus for electrostatically coating a pharmaceutical tablet core with powdered coating material. The apparatus comprises a first rotary drum (12) on which a core is held in electrical isolation from its surroundings but at a potential difference to earth by an electrode which contacts the core. The core is carried past a coating station B at which particles of powder having an opposite potential difference to earth are held in a tray (18). The surface of the drum is held at the same potential difference to earth as the powder particles. The powder is attracted to the core, and not to the drum, coating the exposed surface of the core. The drum carries the coated core past a fusing station C at which a heater fuses the powder to form a continuous film coating. The core is then turned and transferred onto a second drum (12') where the other surface is coated in the same way.